

REMARKS

The principle purpose of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is to provide claims defining a polymerizable mixture and to conform terminology. This amendment is not being submitted to narrow the scope of the claims.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Ruland, Reg. No. 37,432
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO &
BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

Attorney Docket No.: MERCK-1972-D02

Date: May 4, 2004

JER/jqs

K:\merck\1972d2\Supp Prelim Amend.doc